

Distinguished Alumni Citation
Dr. Michael J. Beattie (DVM '94)

Mike Beattie, from St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Graduated from the University of Prince Edward Island's Atlantic Veterinary College in 1994. Mike is currently the President of Gas Infusion Systems Inc. however before that he spent 14 years as the Chief Veterinarian (Aquaculture Specialist) for the provincial government of New Brunswick. During that time, he stewarded the salmon aquaculture industry through several potential crises. Soon after joining the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture, Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) Virus outbreaks were having their maximal impact on the industry, requiring the provincial government to order depopulation of many farm populations. This type of test and cull program is stressful on everyone involved and takes a strong and principled personality to ensure trust and respect by all parties. Dr. Beattie provided critical leadership in this regard, ensuring that decisions were effective and timely. By 2005, new diagnostic testing that separated viral types based on genomic makeup was becoming available. Dr. Beattie ensured that decisions made by the department were based on the latest science, developing surveillance programs that have since been used as the standard for many other salmon growing areas of the world. The province of NB had been dealing with clinical ISA cases since 1997 and under his leadership they became one of the few places with no cases by 2007. He led the implementation of the most rigorous and decisive ISA detection and control program globally..

In 2009, Dr. Beattie's exceptional leadership was again utilized as the same salmon industry dealt with an entirely new health crises, the emergence of sea lice (an external parasite) resistant to the most widely used oral medication. This new challenge required decisive action on completely new treatments with the complication of environmental management as a key component. Dr. Beattie established applied research programs that enabled the farming industry to have access to bath treatments to which they normally would have had many years of delay due to federal registration restrictions. He could be found at all hours and in all weather conditions at marine sites setting up new treatment monitoring protocols. He also established key scientific collaborations, without which the industry would have not progressed in its battle with resistance sea lice.

Dr. Beattie is well known throughout the aquaculture health scientific community. He sits on several advisory bodies, including the National Aquatic Animal Health Program, UV Pure Stream Ltd, BioSynEnergies Group LLC, CFIA Toxicology R&D, and NSERC and ACRDP National Project Review Committees. He has always been an avid supporter of the aquaculture industry and its veterinarians in many provincial interactions with other provinces, federal government, and the state of Maine. He is an invited speaker at many industry related conferences. Everyone in salmon aquaculture fish health management in Canada has been involved with Dr. Beattie at some point in the past 20 years!

Dr. Beattie's contributions to society have made the New Brunswick salmon aquaculture industry more scientifically rigorous in all aspects of fish health management. He has been instrumental in maintaining the economic viability of that industry in the face of potentially debilitating health

challenges. He has maintained the integrity of the veterinary profession by applying the greatest of standards to his pursuit of evidence-based strategies for regulations and support of aquaculture in the region.

Dr. Beattie has also contributed to UPEI and specifically the Atlantic Veterinary College by being the strongest supporter of our involvement. In the past he provided instruction to clinical rotation students whenever we visit salmon sites. He often has arranged unique clinical experiences for these students and for students who contact him for extra experience. He has been on UPEI/AVC graduate student supervisory committees and also has provided samples and advice to many other AVC graduate students who need the practical approach of someone immersed in the industry health programs. In addition, he has been instrumental to our applied research programs over the past decade. He has demanded rigorous approaches to his department's health programs and in so doing has convinced senior officials to invest further into our collaborative ventures. For example, in past Atlantic Innovation Fund projects at AVC, he has arranged for his department to provide over \$1M in cash contributions to our research activities. He has also arranged a 10 year lease (at \$1 per year) for AVC to use the new diagnostic laboratory as part of our academic and research field stations. His help has been instrumental to our success in the region's aquaculture and that success has put AVC on the global stage and facilitated many of our other success stories, such as the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Aquatic Epidemiology.

His record of achievement in applied research and service to aquatic food animal production acts as an inspiration for many of our aquaculture oriented veterinary students. He is the most enthusiastic supporter of their pursuits and of veterinary medicine applied to aquaculture. Dr. Mike Beattie is a very distinguished alumnus who makes us proud that he graduated from AVC in 1994!